

Congress,

I, Chris McKee, an EHS Specialist in Austin, Texas, respectfully urge Congress to extend the wind energy production tax credit (PTC) as quickly as possible.

I graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in December of 2010 and spent almost a year looking for work. Finally, after a year of nonstop searching, Mitsubishi Power Systems Americas offered me a position in their Wind Turbine Department as an EHS Specialist. Had it not been for the boom in the Wind Industry that was fostered by the PTC I would still be looking for a job instead of starting my career in the Wind Industry. Now the Industry in which I have chosen to start my career is being threatened with the expiration of the PTC. The PTC drives billions of dollars in private investment in homegrown American wind power each year. Increasing the amount of power that our country gets from clean, homegrown, affordable resources is an excellent thing for us to do – and this tax credit provides an incentive for the wind industry to continue to do just that. When compared to the help the oil and gas industry receives, the PTC is minuscule. Why not extend the PTC and allow a clean form of energy which provides thousands of direct jobs and hundreds of thousands of indirect jobs to grow and benefit our country?

Of course, the country needs to reduce its deficit, but a fact of the matter is there are areas within the government and other industries that could make due with a lot less than they are currently receiving. The Wind Industry is a promising new player in our countries energy lineup that needs to be cultivated and supported by our country in order to yield its full potential. Therefore, cutting it down when it is beginning to flourish does not make sense.

For these reasons, and many others, I urge the committee to take up an extension of the wind energy production tax credit right away.

Thank you